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Please add any additional comments to be added to the letter here. Share your personal experiences as to why the Madison River needs a recreation plan now.

There are too many fishermen on the upper Madison River. I have fished it for 40 years and it is only getting worse. I recommend banning boats on the stretch from Quake to Lyons. Fish mortality increases with more fishermen using the same waters.

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As many have, I began fishing the Madison River from Yellowstone Park down to Bear Trap Canyon beginning in 1978. It was wide open then with very little fishing pressure, a delight to visit as I'd pick off rainbows and browns at any time. Then the Madison River was "discovered," inviting land developers, outfitters, shop owners, and more who thrived on the increasing population of summer time fishermen and tourists. The days of solitude were gone.

Overcrowding changed that forever as it did for the Madison's recreational management needs.

There was a time saying "managing recreation" was a preposterous notion, but we have arrived at a time that it's absolutely necessary. There are innumerate examples of how overuse ruins a resource, many of which I've personally witnesses and many more read about, and the single compelling insight to each is that had we heeded the warnings the catastrophes could have been avoided. Rivers turned into polluted sleuths, fish species exterminated and all fauna that depend on them for food, and abundant noise and sight pollution turned a pristine resource into a cespool of congestion. We have a chance to avoid that now if we manage the Madison wisely. There isn't a reason that such a beautiful resource can't be preserved for the enjoyment of everyone, wade fisherman, float fisherman, once-a-year fisherman, boaters, et al.

Let's also not forget those species that aren't human that have depended on the Madison for sustenance and safety. They can't hop in their SUV or pick-up and drive down to Bozeman to pick up supplies. They are stuck with what Providence has provided and we have no right to destroy it. The heavy impact of human traffic is notorious for such ruin.

For all these reasons, "recreational management" might not make everyone happy, but a "I win, you loose," strategy for any single contingency will be disastrous for all. As an example, living in the East, I watched commercial fishing lobby heavily for light restrictions on striped bass, and after winning it was just three years that the striped bass population crashed. A perfect example of lopsided solutions.

So what is the prescription needed for the Madison? I leave that in your capable scientific and social hands to sort out, but I know that everyone, and I mean everyone must expect to give up something if a long lasting compromise can be worked out. If everyone walks away grumbling a bit about the solution, then my experience in negotiations has taught me you probably have the right solution.

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A fragile natural resource not to be taken for granted in good water years.

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905 30th St NW, Rochester, MN 55901

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Yes, I definitely agree with the need for a controlled recreational plan. Starting in 2019 I voluntarily changed my yearly two month stay in Ennis for the last ten years to only two months every two years because of overcrowding and the use of flotation devices (boats-rafts) between \$3 Bridge and Lyons Bridge.

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4035 South Salt Lick Loop, Island Park, ID

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I agree with the idea of a wade section only from Quake Lake to Lyons Bridge , however , some sections of the river in this area would become virtually inaccessible to the public due to private property areas that allow fisherman to walk only in the water or up to the high water mark . This is not possible in some sections and during certain times of the year. By disallowing boat access , these areas would essentially become accessible by only a very few who own property adjacent to the river. In order to prevent this , fisherman , other than the property owners, should be allowed a wider walking area next to the river , say up to 3 feet, so that all areas of the wade section are accessible to all.

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24 Rainbow Point Rd., McAllister, Montana 59740

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In addition, the loophole in the rules for the wading section that allows people in pontoon or open bottom boats to fish from the boats as long as their feet are on the river bottom, needs to be corrected to prevent same. This loophole is contrary to the spirit and the letter of the rules limiting fishing on wade only section to those wading the river.

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2121 South 850 East, Bountiful, UT 84010

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Address *

707 Grove Ave. Mohnton, Pa. 19540

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131 Catalpa St, Santa Cruz, CA 95062

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A management plan for the Madison is long over due! Mitigating overcrowding and appropriate closure for spauning times are the key to sustainability.

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Existing wade only sections, such as Valley Garden, have become frequented by guide boats who deposit their clients at the best spots early in the day, presenting an unfair aadvantage.

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For generations Montana anglers have supported wade-only fishing — and wade-only access — on the section of the Madison River between Hebgen Dam and Lyons Bridge. As evidence of the public support for no-boat regulations, take a look at how Montana FWP acquired the heart of this section, the Three Dollar Bridge Fishing Access Site. From 1998 - 2001 when this property was threatened with sale, subdivision and development, long-time Madison River anglers answered the call and donated hundreds of thousands of dollars. These funds were crucial to a nonprofit acquisition of these three miles of Madison River frontage. This irreplaceable access and riparian habitat was subsequently transferred to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks for permanent public use and enjoyment.

The anglers who made the Three Dollar Bridge Project happen had a tradition of wade fishing this great water — the one area of the Madison where boat traffic was virtually non-existent. As a staffer who worked on this conservation effort for more than four years, it's clear that public commitment to preserving the wade-fishing section was the prime driver for this incredible conservation story.

In recent years, we've seen an explosive increase in floating use of the Madison by outfitters and other anglers, including use of boats to access the Hebgen - Lyons section. The resultant diminishment of recreational quality is evident, and makes it even more important to have a wade-only fishing section that is also strictly managed as wade-only access. Otherwise, boats will dominate here too, bringing cadres of floated-in anglers who damage the experience of anglers — of all ages — who have worked hard and in good-faith to walk to their prize fishing waters.

It's time to halt the rampant increase in boating use in at least one significant section of the Madison River by outlawing use of boats for fishing access in the Hebgen - Lyons section. By doing so, we'll preserve one of Montana's pre-eminent outdoor experiences. And we'll also uphold our pact with those who stepped up at a critical time to conserve a part of the Madison River where dedicated anglers can still seek a fishing challenge in the best tradition of the sport.

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25 Big Bend Road, Cameron, MT 59720

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The Commission has delayed making any decisions to protect the river for years. Now is the time to act and act in a manor that will have a real impact on the preservation of our irreplaceable resource!!!!!!

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| 805-444-1050 | | |
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Please do something. This beautiful river is being overrun. Future generations will thank you for preserving some of its beauty and wonder for them.

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805-444-1090

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Commercial fishing interests have overwhelmed the Madison river the past few years to the detriment of the walk/wade fisherman and particularly to the detriment of the fishery and the environment. Please enact the proposed recreation plan of April 2018 and save the Madison River for future generations.

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3888 Teton Road, Island Park, ID 83429

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The popularity of the Madison River has exceeded its ability to support quality fishing. The number of guided boats on the river provides income to the area but at too great a price. Please protect the river for future generations.

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The river is overcrowded with commercial drift boat traffic. I am in favor of a Madison County Resident permit for guides. The rapid growth of Bozeman has caused an inordinate amount of guide traffic on the river. Let's work to protect this valuable resource.

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Please add any additional comments to be added to the letter here. Share your personal experiences as to why the Madison River needs a recreation plan now.

The Madison River has brought me fond memories during the 10 trips made over my lifetime. At 84 years old I can't reach the pocket water as in the past.

I have floated the last two years on the Mother Madison. I brought my beloved grandson out to Yellowstone country seven years ago where he became enchanted with its waters—especially the Madison. His name is on the plaque at the Three Dollar Bridge. God took him when his heart ceased to beat in his cabin behind Blue Ribbon Fly Shop. Save and nurture the Mother Madison so all can rest peacefully knowing others will find its beauty and peace.

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I wade fish, but no longer fish much of the Madison. A mile-hike at \$3 bridge fails to find unoccupied water. In addition, amateur boaters often intrude on a run I'm fishing. Not sure what all needs to be or can be done, but too many boats everywhere, and too many anglers. Both the experience and the catch suffer!

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brandtwilliams@gmail.com

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I am an MRF member and whole heartdly disagree with the MRF and do NOT support a recreation plan as proposed by the MRF. This is an ill conceived plan that does NOT take into consideration the many aspects of the use of the Madison River. This recreation plan only serves the interests of a handful of residents that have a vested interest in protecting their properties. There is no biological river health reason that a recreation plan should be adopted only some uncorroborated anecdotal evidence of conflict at a couple of river access points. Show real scientific proof that the river needs to be metered. I am a vocal opponent of this plan and any plan that does not consider ALL aspects of the use of the Madison River. I have made my opinion know to Governor Bullock and the legislature. It is the responsibility of the MRF board to represent ALL of its members. This note has been copied and sent to the Board of Outfitters, Governor Bullock, and members of the Montana State Legislature.

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PO Box 412 Ennis, MT

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I use to be able to wade fish on the upper Madison without interference from fishermen in boats. Why can't we have at least one section of the many miles of river for wade fishing only. MANY are wade fishing at Raynolds and \$3 Bridge, please give them a break. Some of those in boats have no respect for private property and ignore the high water mark. Some of the river use to be closed for part of the year and that should be reinstated to give the fish a break during spawning.

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2420 Lynnwood Drive, Columbia, MO 65203

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The Madison was my first true fly fishing experience. What a beautiful exciting resource that must be protected for future generations.

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For the future...to be enjoyed and loved for generations to come

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tdbozorth@hotmail.com

Phone Number *

404-599-3672

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I've fish the Madison for fourty seven years. I own a drift boat but won't use it on the Madison anymore due to rude guides yelling at me and my wife. I also am displaced from fishing downstream from Lyon's Bridge due to the number of drift boats in the summer. Due to a these conflicts I fish from Reynold's Bridge to Lyons. Except now I find after walking downstream from \$3 Bridge boats parked where I walked 30-45 minutes to fish. Please restore the "Wade Only" section of the Madison to what it was originally intended.

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| dan.trout.stalker46@gmail.com |
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| Email * |
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| allcam@comcast.net |
| Phone Number * |
| 801-300-1592 |
| Please add any additional comments to be added to the letter here. Share your personal experiences as to why the Madison River needs a recreation plan now. |
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3006 E 6th Street Tucson AZ

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| 61 B Torry Rd | | |

| Email * | | | |
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| mikereck59@gmail.com | | | |
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| Phone Number * | | | |
| 5407521250 | | Hart Ma (1880) (1880) | |

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I was astonished in July to see several boat access sites filled and trucks with boat trailers overflowing onto highway 287. Very dangerous and alarming.

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2689 Comanche Drive, Salt Lake City, UT 84108

| First Name * | | | |
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| Charles | | | |
| Last Name* | | | |
| Anderson | | | |
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| Email * | |
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| crossanderson@gmail.com | |
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| Phone Number * | |
| 801-583-0311 | |

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I totally support the MFW&P Madison River Draft Recreation Management Plan-Environmental Assessment dated April 19, 2018. Please implement ASAP!!!

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2697 E Sawyer Rd Green Valley, AZ. 85614

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This mighty resource needs management and guidance. The MRF strives to initiate these.

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207 madison trail Cameron, MT

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| Phone Number * | | |

650-245-7033

Please add any additional comments to be added to the letter here. Share your personal experiences as to why the Madison River needs a recreation plan now.

I support all the changes, but thought is needed as to how the proposed "wade only" section does not set a precedent on MT stream access laws. I would support limiting commercial boat traffic in the wade section. However I think that private anglers should be able to use a watercraft for transportation to spread out concentration of wade fisherman in that section and to not allow some sections to become defacto private.

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We urge you to advocate for a Madison River Recreation Plan immediately.

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| Mckeating47@gmail.com |
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| 206-660-8994 |
| Please add any additional comments to be added to the letter here. Share your personal experiences as to why the Madison River needs a recreation plan now. |
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725 Hillview Court, Vacaville, Ca. 95688

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I have fished the Madison for over 50 years. I believe some type of limitation on guided trips on the river is needed. I also support a wade only section of river.

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dgmiller@3rivers.net

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406-788-5233

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I grew up fishing the Madison, and as a lifelong fisherman who loves the Madison, I often now feel like I'm fishing on the Bighorn River with the number of anglers, and in particular the number of boats that utilize the upper Madison on any given day between Memorial and Labor Day weekends. I strongly believe that we, as citizens and stakeholders in MT waters, need to preserve and protect, not just the great fishery itself, but the EXPERIENCE that goes along with the fishery. While it appears that the fishing itself is still good, (for now?), the experience of being out on the river without seeing dozens and dozens of boats has diminished the overall experience that we all love. I would hate for it to become a "permit only" river like the Smith, (and I don't feel like we are at that point or that the public would go for that), but perhaps having some restrictions on days for guide usage and/or boat vs wade usage may be in good order. I do recall that there was a moratorium on guide days allowed back in the late 80's/early 90's era, perhaps something similar could be a partial solution as well. At any rate, I do feel that we need to be proactive and find a solution now, rather than reactive to a changing or damaged fishery due to the pressure later when the continued high usage does strain/stress the resource.

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bill.morrisnc@outlook.com

Phone Number *

252,732,5978

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I first fished the Madison in 1982, and I've returned nearly every year since. As an out-of-state angler I've added many thousands of dollars to the Treasure State's budget. That may not mean much, but multiply me by thousands of other visitors who have come to know and love the Madison. I don't float much, and when I do it's not been with outfitters. Having said that, I have nothing against them or their business - which is, after all, allowing less experienced people to enjoy the river for a day. I'm not a fisheries biologist, or even a die-hard conservationist. What I can tell the Governor and all concerned is that during July the float from Lyons Bridge to Palisades is a sorry spectacle. Not fun, and not a great advertisement for Montana fishing. In forming any solution, put me down for any plan that reduces pressure on the river and if there's going to be pain spread it evenly. Paying people not to fish is not a new idea. When Florida banned gill nets and seines, the state compensated the commercial fishermen. Outfitters are commercial fishermen, by another name.

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Address *

12 Knowles Ave Nashville Tennessee 37204

| First Name * | | | |
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| Geoff | | | |
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| Email * |
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| GeoffT@healthsprings.com |
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1036 Sherringham Way Waxhaw, NC 28173

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Please act now. Do not allow the Madison to become like the unfishable rivers in the east.

Failure to protect the Madison now, will have detrimental financial implications for many years in the surrounding communities

This form was created inside of Madison River Foundation.

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